



# Mission: Plant-Possible

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to find all of the different plant species below located around your Akron Zoo. Bring your completed scavenger hunt form to the office located in the Barnhardt Family Welcome Center and receive your passport stamp. Return each season to complete the next mission and fill your passport book to win a prize!

**\*plant location not necessarily in order**

1. Often called Christmas or Lantern rose, this species is a herbaceous perennial that can trace their history back to 1400 BC as medicinal plants used by Roman and Greek physicians. This is curious due to all parts of the plant having toxic properties. Even the name is derivative of two Greek words that mean "food to injure". This plant species is a member of the Ranunculaceae family and enjoy partial to full shade, their leathery dark green leaves are easily scorched by harsh sunlight. These beautiful flowers are sure to be a welcome sight after a cold and harsh winter.

**Location: Penguin Point**

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2. Due to its strikingly white flowers and dark green, waxy leaves, this plant species is a popular choice for landscapes. The flowers themselves have a lemon scent to them. It is a semi-evergreen tree, holding onto the majority of their leaves throughout the winter season. In the summer, you may see something in the tree that resembles a pickle or light green pinecone. This is the seed pod, once it opens, bright red seeds will emerge.

**Location: Legends of the Wild**

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3. Before leaves emerge, numerous yellow flowers will open and bloom. The bark is dark grey to reddish-brown and the wood on this small, shrubby tree is extremely dense. In fact, it even sinks when in water. In the summer, the fruit will ripen and have a bright red color.

**Location: Legends of the Wild**

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4. Native to China and Japan, this plant species is a bush that always has some color to it. Throughout the seasons, stems hold onto their green color. Once spring arrives, vibrant yellow flowers will open and will continue to bloom throughout summer. In China, this plant has been mixed with honey to help treat coughs.

**Location: Legends of the Wild**

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5. Usually planted as Annuals, this hybrid variety of the Tulipa group keeps coming back year after year and has since become a staple in our perennial spring bulb collection. Native to Central Asia and Turkey, these plants are comprised of over 100 different species and have a long history of human cultivation, dating back to the tenth century. Since that time, they have become one the most popular garden plants, with a plethora of cultivars and varieties, offering a vast array of colors, sizes, forms and bloom times to choose from.

**Location: Carousel Plaza**

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6. Wonderfully whimsical is the best way to describe this native flower. Only standing at six inches tall, this little fella can easily get lost in taller plants and eventually become crowded out. Don't let its small size fool you! Its fern-like foliage, although not truly evergreen, often persists into the winter. It can handle hot, dry conditions and thrives in rocky sandy soils, developing into a ground cover in these arid conditions.

Its flowers start off inconspicuously at first, a trio of three peachy red buds together drooping downwards on their flower stalk, as if bowing their heads before a performance. As the petals start to open, they reveal a plume of seeds that can be best described as something straight out of Dr. Seuss' "Whoville."

**Location: Grizzly Ridge**

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7. Offering a sea of color, this species is a low-growing, Ohio native perennial used in ornamental gardens. As its name suggests, it has mossy textured foliage that forms dense mats. Its sprawling growth habit really compliments well in rock gardens, where it is otherwise hard to fill in those nooks and crannies that rock gardens tend to create. This plant is truly a remarkable sight once in bloom, as its countless tiny flowers create a sea of color, flowing around the contours of the landscape. Many pollinators use this plant as a food source, such as, bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

**Locations: Grizzly Ridge**

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8. Blooming even before most trees have a chance to flush out their first spring leaves, these Ohio-native -wildflowers belong to a special group of plants called spring ephemerals. These plants emerge early in the spring, but soon after, wither and lie dormant underground until the next year. The very showy apple-like flower blossom is found under its umbrella foliage, from late April to May. By June, these flowers have developed into a golden apple-like fruit. Early settlers and pioneers once used the fruit to make marmalades, jellies, and drinks. BUT BEWARE ---The rest of the plant and unripe fruit is poisonous!

**Location: Grizzly Ridge**

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9. While not usually used in many landscape design plans due to its small size and shape, this plant is a wonderful North American native that has many benefits. While most wildlife deems its lobed foliage unpalatable, the fruit produced is a vital food source in the winter months for many birds and small mammals. Its most striking season is fall where the leaves will turn vibrant reds and oranges. Native Americans have used fruit from this plant in teas, and the bark has been used in the production of leather due to its high tannins.

**Location: Africa**

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10. In the spring, colorful and fragrant flowers cover these smaller trees. The flowers can range from pink to white, and small apples will ripen between July and November. The trunk and surrounding limbs are often curved and intertwined. There are multiple cultivars of this plant due to the existence of numerous diseases and pests that can affect apple species.

**Location: Gardens**

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11. The blue star-shaped clustered flowers this plant catch the eye. Not only is it attractive to humans, but it is also a species of interest for pollinators such as bumblebees and butterflies. It can grow up to 2-3 feet tall with a spread of 2-3 feet.

**Locations: Gardens**

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12. As one of the tallest trees in North America, this tree can stand up to 70-90 feet at its mature height. In spring, the showy flowers on this tree give it away, as they are orange-yellow-green and appear shortly after the leaves emerge. The flowers are a good source of nectar for the ruby throated hummingbirds. The buds on this tree are long and ovate, resembling a duck's bill.

**Location: Gardens**

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13. Native to Korea and Japan this early spring bloomer is the most fragrant and showy of the viburnum family. Reaching sizes of 8 feet tall and spreading as long as 8 feet, this specimen blooms with rounded flower heads that have a strong spectacularly sweet smell. Viburnums, like this one, are often used as a backdrop for perennial beds, as well as, shrub borders or planting foundations.

**Location: Gardens**

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14. Reaching a height of around 35 feet and claiming the title as state tree of Oklahoma, this plant is a specimen to behold in the early Spring. Covered in light, reddish pink flowers, it is also a member of the pea family. It has been documented that early American settlers used its flowers as a sweet addition to their meals, like salads, and has one of the highest Vitamin C concentrations

in any of our woodland trees. This tree is truly one of the most spectacular sights in full bloom and an amazing addition to any landscape design.

**Location: Wild Prairie Pavilion**

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15. Fantastically fragrant, this medium-sized shrub provides delightful spring blooms and a great fall color as well. Native to Northeast China and Korea, it can reach six to eight feet in height and spread five to seven feet, giving it an upright form in the landscape. Starting in a lavender hue as a bud, they open and the flowers start to fade white. Differing from other similar species, this plant will curl its leaves to form a cup shape. In addition to its many positive attributes to the landscape, this plant has a natural resistance to powdery mildew.

**Location: Wild Asia**

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